(f) IDBI has reported that there are five cases pending against the companies of the Essar Group with various courts.

देश में बैंक घोटालों में फंसी धनराशि

1499. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 27 जून, 1997 के दैनिक "पायोनियर" में "भारत के विभिन्न बैंकों में 47 हजार करोड़ रुपये के घोटाले" शीर्षक से छपी खबर की ओर आकर्षित किया गया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने देश के विभिन्न बैंक घोटालों की कोई जांच की है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार 47 हजार करोड़ रुपयों की इस राशि के संबंध में कोई जांच करेगी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) दिनांक 27 जून, 1997 के "पायोनियर" के दिल्ली संस्करण में ऐसा कोई समाचार, जैसाकि प्रश्न में उल्लिखित है, नहीं छपा था।

(ख) से (घ) ये प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते।

CIA Report Regarding World's Most Powerful Economies

1500. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR:
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a CIA report of 15 countries, India ranks fifth among the World's most powerful economies;

(b) if so, what are the broad details of this report; and

(c) how far Government's assessment agrees with the CIA report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) According to a news item reported in the Times of India dated June 24, 1997 under the caption "Indian ranks 5th among world economies" it has been stated that India, with gross domestic product (GDP) of $ 1,409 billion, ranks fifth among the most powerful economies of the world. The source of information is stated to be political and economic weekly "Interfax-Aif" (Moscow). the news item further mentions that the list is based on CIA report of 15 countries.

The strength of a country depends on human and physical resources it possess and the way these resources are utilised. India has registered a significantly higher GDP growth of nearly seven per cent during the last three years. If this trend growth rate is maintained there is no doubt that India would rank as one of the top economic powers of the world.

Profits of Nationalised Bank

1501. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks including the State Bank have earned considerably high profits in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating corresponding figures for the preceding two years.

(c) how far the increase in profits is attributable to decrease in rate of interests on depositors money including small saving and term deposits; and

(d) the reasons for the anti-depositors and anti-savings policies of the Banks, aimed at saving the interests of business and trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the operating profit/net profit/loss of public sector banks for the years 1996-97,